

DAY 12

Persevere Like Jesus: Perseverance

... he loved them to the end.

John 13:1

Leadership Affirmation

I intercede for those who oppose my leadership, asking the Lord to bless them.

Great leaders have perseverance. Jesus' love for his disciples was undiluted and undiminished. *He loved them to the end.*

Put another way, Jesus finished what he started. He remained steadfast in His mission, teaching and serving His disciples even as His crucifixion approached. The religious leaders sought to take His life, yet He steadfastly proceeded. He alone knew they could not take what He was about to freely give.

Perseverance is the quality of never giving up, of staying on mission to the very end. No matter what obstacles you may face. No matter what opposition you may encounter. We develop perseverance through understanding our purpose. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He never deviated from that purpose.

When we have a God-given purpose in leading others, we develop an unquenchable desire to achieve it and to bring those we lead along with us. Our life becomes focused by an inner desire to achieve something meaningful and to help others achieve something noble in their own lives.

After Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He spent hours pouring His last lessons into their hearts and minds, which we now know as The Upper Room Discourse. He knew that one of them was about to betray him, but He never faltered. He chose to endure the sufferings of betrayal, beatings, mockery, and even excruciating death for the joy He knew was on the other side of that borrowed tomb.

Above all, when we see one set of goals being reached, we begin asking the Lord what He wants next. Jesus knew His time with the disciples was short. But He also knew another Counselor (another, but of the same essence) would shortly come and lead them to even greater heights of ministry effectiveness (John 14:12–18). This ragged band of rugged men were about to change the world in ways no one could have possibly imagined!

Prayer for Protection

Father, even when my leadership is spurned by others, I receive each person as a gift from You to more fully fashion me into the image of Jesus Christ.